

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, second paragraph:

This invention relates to devices, implants and prostheses used in orthopaedic surgery, and, more particularly, to bone plates used to reinforce fractured or osteotomically separated bones and thus promote healing.

Page 3, first full paragraph

In yet another solution, PCT application no. WO01/54601 combines the features of the DCS system discussed above with a locking screw. ~~This design combines the features of the DCS system with a locking screw.~~ Such a system is known as the combi-slot. In this design, the stepped surface of the slot is generally ramped or tapered so as to be deeper at one end than at another. This enables the positioning and selective fixing of the bone plate for compressing two bone fragments together with a preload created by wedging action. In this manner, the bones are placed in a position that the surgeon believes would best promote healing.

Page 4, last paragraph

More specifically, what is needed is a bone plate that provides this choice while reliably and permanently fixing the bone plate to the bone fragments or osteotomically separated bone portions.

Page 6, last paragraph

Referring now to FIG. 1a, a bone plate 80 of complex form is shown, particularly suited to tibial plateau-leveling osteotomy in which a long portion and a

joint portion of an osteotomically separated long bone are rejoined and secured. The bone plate 80 has a main longitudinal axis 12, a bone-contacting bottom side (not shown) and a top side 16 with at least three sets of overlapping holes 100 which communicate through the plate from the top to the bottom side. The sets 210 of overlapping holes 100 are each made up of at least two holes, each having a threaded surface 36 and having an offset one with respect to the other of a given distance therebetween. The offset is equal to less than the sum of the radii (r' , r'') of each such adjacent overlapping holes 100 yet more than a radius of a larger such overlapping holes, such offset defining a necked down portion 103 between the overlapping holes ~~define threaded apertures having multifaceted surfaces 36.~~ When applied to a bone, one set 210 ~~two sets~~ of such overlapping holes 100 are located so as to lie on one side opposite sides of an osteotomy site 110, a second set on an opposite side of an osteotomy site 110, and a third hole is aligned at approximately 60 degrees with the longitudinal axis 12, on the elbow portion.